MODERN TIMES

"What you do is news!"

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Gas Workers Strike — Bosses Offer Hot Air

by Henry Tamarin
Modern Times Staff

"If you ask me, the company's offer stinks!" one of the 230 striking workers at the Southern Connecticut Gas Company told *Modern Times*. The union, Local 12,021 of District 50 of the Allied and Technical Workers walked off their jobs at Midnight April 1, after the contract expired and a series of 13 meetings with company officials had failed to reach an accord.

Management has adopted a hardline approach during the sessions, according to union spokesmen, and has refused to negotiate under a smokescreen of charges alleging union sabotage. The union catagorically denies the allegations and views them as an effort by management to avoid discussing the issues.

One of the major issues, according to Jack Giamette, Union President, is the company's proposal to institute a labor grade system that would down-grade over half the current job catagories. This comes at a time when union members are already dissatisfied with their contract, in relation to that of the Bridgeport local in the same union and with the same company.

The New Haven Gas Company and the Bridgeport Gas Company merged several years ago into the Southern Connecticut Gas Company. People in comparable jobs in Bridgeport are making up to $ .50 an hour more than those in the same job in New Haven. Some union members find the company's reluctance difficult to understand in view of the fact that rates for the consumer have been raised approximately 11% since last May and the president of the company has received a raise to the tune of an extra $10,000 a year.

Andrew Mauro, an employee at the Crown Street office and a member of the negotiating committee states that, "we want to get salaries and benefits equal to that of our brothers across the river in Bridgeport. It's the same company and the same jobs."

In its last offer the company offered a raise that would bring the pay scale for at least some of the workers equal to those in Bridgeport, but only after a two year period. Mr. Mauro added that if employees are doing their job now, there is no reason why they should have to wait two years to get equal pay with that of the Bridgeport people.

District 50 members picketing at the Southern Connecticut Gas Company offices at Crown and Orange Streets. (M-T photo by M. Borenstein.)

The length of the contract is also in dispute. The company has offered a two year contract but the union feels that it would be a mistake to enter into a contract for that long a period of time while wage and price controls are still in effect and the future of the economy uncertain. There was no cost of living clause in their last contract.

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Learning Fun At Lee Annex

by Nancy Robinson
Lee High School Student

It's amazing to me how what was a pipedream only yesterday is a reality today. Last year some of us students at Lee High School, in a little over six months, drew up a plan for an experimental school, received a grant from the New Haven Foundation, set up the curriculum during the summer, and began classes last September, with an enrollment of 60. Since then, 331 more students have enrolled in the Annex, as the school is called, some taking as many as five courses, others taking only one or two.

The Annex was created to be an alternative to traditional education, to make learning relevant and meaningful to students. When students want to study something they can suggest a course and the Annex will find a teacher or will make arrangements for students to do field work in the community.

The statement of the program's philosophy reads, "It is not the purpose of the Annex to be a preparation for life but rather to be a part of life." In essence, the Annex uses the city as its classroom. Courses are taught by community people and Yale students, as well as Lee High School teachers. Building construction, Japanese, taxes and insurance, karate, aquatic biology, Yiddish, ecology and dance are a few of the 40 courses offered every nine weeks.

Setup of Annex

Unlike the High Schools in the Community, the Annex shares the facilities of a "regular" city high school – which has both advantages and disadvantages. Students in the Annex can participate in Lee sports and after school activities; they also get to share in what one student called "the wonderful atmosphere – no windows, bells every 42 minutes, hall passes, and dirt."

The Annex classes vary in size – from two students in the Faulkner seminar to 30 in karate. They tend to be smaller in general than those in the regular Lee program. There is also greater flexibility than in the traditional structure.

Paul Hazel, Annex facilitator, commented, "Because of the smallness of the Annex program we're able to offer a new course when just a few people want to take it. In this way, we're more responsive to students' interests."

The Annex creates possibilities for different relations between teachers and students. Burt Saxon, a Lee High School history teacher who teaches at the Annex said, "In the Annex, the teacher-student

See ANNEX page 2

Lee Annex students gather for a reunion at the 'Tricentennial Banquet' as the marking period ends for teachers and students.

Vets Rout Viet General

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(M. T. photo by Angus Thuermer Jr.)

Anti-War Actions Planned P.4

getting down to BRASS TACKS P.9

WORKING ON THE RR P.12

Sirabella Trial Continues

Special To **Modern Times**

Vincent Sirabella and Domenic Franco, two union activists, are on trial on charges of "disorderly conduct" during the Yale strike last year. Sirabella is business agent of Local 35, the union of Yale blue-collar workers and Franco is a union member. Sirabella and Franco both claim that they were arrested, not because they had been disorderly, but to break the strike. Their defense is bolstered by the admission of one policeman who said: "The main objective is to latch onto the leaders so as to break up the strike."

The defense is expected to present evidence that the strikers were attempting peacefully to picket the Yale commencement procession. They wanted to confront university president Kingman Brewster, who had refused to meet with union leaders throughout the long and bitter strike. On the morning of the commencement, the strikers had gathered at a point beside the traditional processional route. Suddenly, the procession altered the traditional route in an effort to avoid the strikers. The strikers ran to the procession where many, including the defendants, were arrested. They deny that they shoved or pushed the police.

Contradictory Case

The prosecution in attempting to make its case put on at least a dozen police witnesses and maintained that Sirabella and Franco charged a police line formed to protect the commencement procession. No two witnesses, however, told the same story. Each prosecution witness contradicted himself, as well as the other witnesses.

Some swore they saw Sirabella run into the line, others swore he walked. Some said he crouched, others denied any crouch. One officer swore he was behind Sirabella at all times, yet the prosecution's own photographs in evidence showed him directly in front. In each case, defense cross-examination proved that the officer's testimony at the trial conflicted directly with earlier statements given by the officer shortly after the arrest.

The movies (taken by CBS TV) showed little but mass confusion on Elm Street.

Annex Offers Alternative

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roles are broken down. The teacher no longer has to be a disciplinary figure." "Because you get students who really want to learn," added another teacher.

Makes School Bearable

Cathy Klein spoke for several other Annex seniors when she said, "The Annex has made my last year at Lee bearable, by making my schedule more flexible, with more interesting courses. I also like the close contact with my teachers." A student enrolled in a course at the Regional Center for the Mentally Retarded called it "the only course I've *ever* taken that I really like and look forward to."

Perhaps the Annex program has helped to change some students' attitudes towards their education. Almost all the courses offered at the Annex were rated good to excellent in student evaluations.

At the banquet, students saw films made by film classes at the Annex.

What would it take to create an entire high school like the Annex? Interesting courses, a different building, more money more flexibility on the part of administrators, more freedom for students and teachers, and really a whole new philosophy of education — one that brings together learning and real life.

Watchdog Eyeing Food Prices

Morty Miller of the International Association of Machinists Local 1396 and Annie Belle Austin, a neighborhood worker of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation examine base price lists in a local supermarket for the Central Labor Council's Price Watchdog Committee. (M-T photo courtesy of Price Watchdog Committee.)

No RR Strike

by Slipry Rail.

The Great Penn Central Railroad Strike of April 1, 1972, didn't happen —— yet.

About a day before the deadline President Nixon ordered a 60 day "cooling off" period within which time an emergency board is to study the case and make its recommendations to the PennCentral and the United Transportation Union (UTU).

In this case, the postponement may work to the advantage of the workers-- although the Board's recommendations will almost certainly result in the elimination of thousands of jobs that could be saved if the employees of the railroad had the simple right as American citizens to stay away from their jobs.

PennCentral has announced its intention to eliminate six thousand train, engine, and yard employees. That means about one-third of their present operating force or one or two men knocked out of each train or switcher crew.

At the same time PennCentral says that they don't want to dismiss anybody but just to stop hiring to replace "unnecessary" employees who retire, quit, or die.

Reduction of force is necessary, says PennCentral, if they are going to get out of the continual deficit.

UTU maintains that most of the employees that PennCentral would eliminate are necessary for safe operation and that the union and the workers could give them plenty of ideas for greater economy and efficiency if they would listen.

Workers Demand End To Welfare Chaos

by Jim Gaito
Executive Vice-President
Connecticut Union of
Welfare Employees

Unresolved worker grievances exploded on March 25 when nearly 500 welfare employees demanded an end to chaos within the Welfare Department. At a meeting called by the Connecticut State Employees Association (CSEA) welfare workers voted overwhelmingly to hold a work stoppage unless demands were met. They also called for a legislative probe of the Welfare Department.

CSEA was called by State Personnel for a meeting on April 3, a day before the scheduled work stoppage. As a result, the union backed off from a strike and recommended to its members and welfare staff that action be held off pending further negotiations.

The Connecticut Union of Welfare Employees (CUWE) endorsed the job demands of CSEA. CUWE met with Deputy Welfare Commissioner Norton and officials from State Personnel on Thursday April 6 and announced its opposition to a special work project designed in the form of a contest pitting caseworkers against social service aides. CUWE also objected to flagrant violations of civil service regulations in which large numbers of employees are worked above their classification and not being paid at a rate commensurate with their expanded duties.

CUWE asked how the Welfare Department administration could reconcile the current gross understaffing in the agency with the stated need for 700 new positions to adequately staff the department as voiced by one of their own officials.

We ended with an appeal that five workers suspended as a result of a walkout in Hartford be reinstated. We are continuing to press for a thorough legislative inquiry into the operations of the Welfare Department.

Transfer Harassment

One of the latest grievances comes from the transfer of a number of service workers from their current work places to other cities. The reshuffling involves upwards of 25 people. Service workers in New Haven are being sent to Bridgeport, Hartford workers are going to New Haven and Bridgeport workers to Stamford, etc. etc., etc. The administration claims that it is trying to equalize service caseloads around the state. This contention is doubtful since caseloads vary widely from office to office. Some units count active and pending cases; others just count active cases. Qualitative considerations such as relative casework difficulty are bypassed by White and his deputies.

The only legitimate way to guarantee quality social services to all welfare recipients is to hire more workers and upgrade the whole service delivery system. Meskill and White won't do this and so the numbers game goes on and everyone suffers.

UE Strikers Get Advice-Nothing Else

Whitney Blake Refuses To Negotiate

Special to Modern Times

Approximately 150 members of the striking Local 299 of the United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE) staged a rally at the Whitney-Blake Co., Monday, April 3. The rally was to dramatize the company's refusal of further bargaining talks.

At the meeting following the rally the production workers were informed that the company had been persuaded by state mediators to meet with the union committee. The three parties met Tuesday, April 4, at 10 am at the Sheraton Park Plaza Hotel in New Haven.

The company, however, used the meeting to lecture the union committee rather than to negotiate. According to a strike bulletin issued after the meeting by Local 299:

"Union negotiators, at the request of Federal mediators met with the company representatives yesterday, April 4, prepared to negotiate all issues in the dispute.

"But from the very outset, company spokesman, Attorney Michael J. Dorney, made it clear that the company was there, not to negotiate, but to dictate.

"With an arrogance unusual even for a corporation official, Dorney announced that the company would not budge from its original offer."

State mediators were also surprised that the company had used this opportunity to dictate to the union.

Members React

Following the meeting, union members had such reactions as:

"They wanted to give us advice, not negotiate."

"They're more interested in busting the union, rather than negotiating."

"They're trying to pull a GE."

Whitney-Blake continued to stick to the Pay Board's standards for Local 299, yet according to Union Chief Steward, Jim McGloin, the foremen at Whitney-Blake received a 20% increase. This increase is almost four times the amount the Pay Board allows.

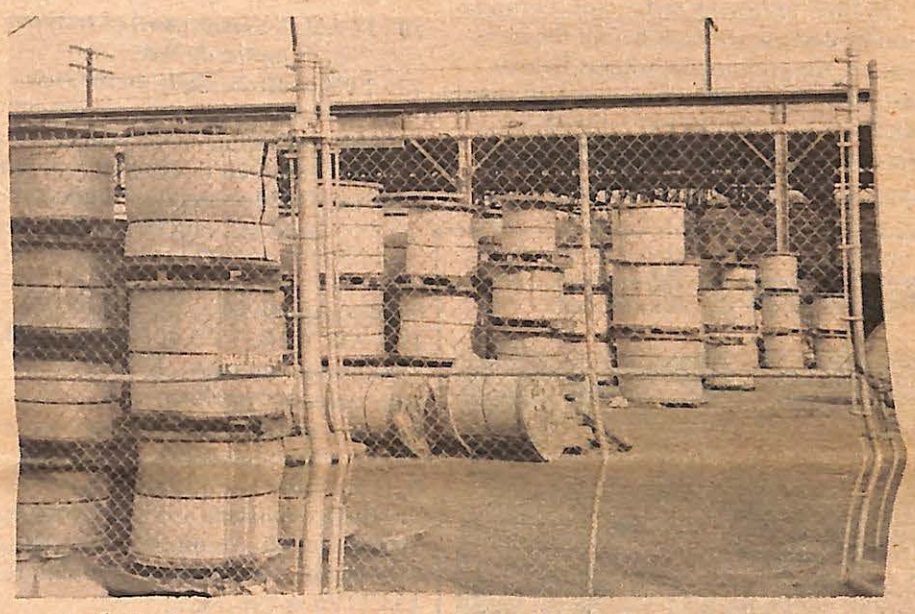
The company apparently wishes to follow the Board only when it benefits the company. McGloin also pointed out some basic faults in fringe benefit policy at Whitney-Blake and feels the company should improve them. These include the pension plan and insurance and health plans which are based on a worker's previous year's wages. With the present policy, a worker who was ill last year suffers loss in some benefits this year.

The union is ready to meet at any time with the company to bargain in good faith. The union committee's members are: James McGloin, Nicolas K. Campanilo, Alfred Slack, Edward McAndrew, and Robert Raymond. The union has been on strike since March 14.

The strike at MB Electronics also continues as management refuses attempts at further negotiation meetings. There are 80 members of Local 299 on strike at MB. They have been on strike since March 17.

MB Electronics is a division of Textron, Inc. and Whitney-Blake is a subsidiary of the Continental Telephone Co.

Strikers start to gather for afternoon picket duty at Whitney-Blake. 'We'll have a picnic out here when it gets warmer," said one striker. (M-T photo by Matt Borenstein.)



Bales of wire stacked behind locked gates at the Whitney-Blake Company in Hamden. Striking workers at Whitney Blake produce telephone cable. (M-T photo by Matt Borenstein.)

Labor Notes

MORE BULL FROM BUTZ

Secretary of Agriculture, Earl L. Butz, has said he would "fight like a wounded steer" against meat price controls. Consumers who think prices are too high, the Secretary of Agriculture suggested , should either shift to less expensive meats or "not eat quite so much." Meanwhile, labor's walkout from the Pay Board has highlighted the inequities in the wage-price system and has stimulated re-election fears in the Nixon administration. But so far we have gotten more bull about controlling meat prices.

HAWKINS CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL AND GOLDEN AGE REST HOME

The 29 non-professional workers at Hawkins Convalescent Hospital in West Haven became the newest members of Local 1199 last week. By a vote of 23 to two, the hospital employees joined workers in four other convalescent homes in the New Haven area.

The workers joined 1199 to improve their wages, presently $1.85 an hour; benefits, almost non-existent at present; and arbitrary treatment on the job. Negotiations for a contract will begin soon. Jerome Brown, acting vice president of the union and a committee of workers will meet with the owners to negotiate a contract.

Ralph Kantrovitz of Bridgeport owns the convalescent hospital.

WHERE TO GET THE HOSPITAL NEWSLETTER

From time to time **Modern Times** reprints articles from the **Hospital Workers Newsletter** which is put out by the Concerned Hospital Workers of Yale New Haven Hospital (CHW). The CHWhas been active in organizing a union at the hospital. The Hospital bosses do not allow them to distribute their newsletter on Hospital property. If you are interested in happenings at the hospital and the organizing drive you can get copies of the **Hospital Workers Newsletter** at the following stores: Len-Mac Cleaners, Del's Liquor Store and Stumble Inn Cafe (Howard and Sylvan); also Danny's Barbecue and Acky's Restaurant (Congress and Cedar.)

Stratford Inn Workers Charge Unfair Practices

The union representing Stratford Motor Inn employees has filed unfair labor practices charges against the motel with the National Labor Relations Board.

John Wilhelm, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 217, Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union, said that the Union has charged the establishment's owner, Motel Hotels, Inc., and its president, Eli Burde, with violations of Sections 8(a)(1), 8(a)(3), and 8(a)(5) of the National Labor Relations Act, including the "unwarranted firing of the Union Steward."

"We are hopeful," Wilhelm said today, "that this charge and the intervention of Federal and State mediators will prevent strife at the Stratford Motor Inn."

The union is also bargaining with Restaurant Associates Industries, Inc., of New York for a new contract in the Publick House Restaurant which adjoins the Stratford Motor Inn. Contracts with both managements expired March 15, 1972.

Specific Charges

The charge filed against the motel specifically alleges that the employer:

"has tried to circumvent the bargaining agent by trying to negotiate directly with employees;"

"has engaged only in surface bargaining with the bargaining agent;"

"has repeatedly threatened employees with loss of jobs for adhering to the union or for refusal to accept certain unilaterally offered terms;"

"has attempted to persuade one employee to remove himself from the bargaining unit;"

"has fired the Union Steward, Shirley Poupart, without cause and in an attempt to demoralize the union members."

Local 217 recently merged with the former Local 288 of Bridgeport, which previously represented the Stratford Motor Inn and Publick House workers.

Gas Workers Strike Holds Firm

(Continued from page 1.)

Other issues at stake are the salary raises and where they are going to come from, the pension plan, sick pay and the language of the contract itself. In the past there has always been an across-the-board increase for all workers. Some employees feel that this year the company is trying to give unequal increases in both salaries and pension plan benefits so that the money comes out of the pockets of other employees rather than from the company.

Carmel Fanello, a worker at the Crown Street office charged that the company's offer, "is being very discriminatory. They (the company) are out to separate the men from the women even though we all have our families to support." Jack Giamette agrees that the company is being discriminatory in their attempt to shift the burden for some programs, from employees in one department to those in another rather than taking any financial responsibility themselves. The Crown Street office is predominantly women.

All non-management personnel are in the union. The employees are standing firm in their demands although the non-conciliatory attitude of the management indicates that it may be a long strike.

A General Retreats From New Haven

by Robert Heinlein and Paul Pierson
Air War Collective

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War, with the help of 800 demonstrators, Yale students and community people against the war, pushed past campus police and charged into Yale Law School auditorium April 4 where General Westmoreland was scheduled to speak before a select group of Yale Students. Westmoreland had already cancelled his speech when he learned there were demonstrators outside the hall.

The demonstration was designed to give Nixon's administration the same treatment as Johnson's administration faced when government officials involved in the war were so embarassed by anti-war demonstrations that they were afraid to show their faces in public.

The test of success will come April 20, when U.S. Secretary of State Rogers is scheduled to speak at Yale and receive the A. Whitney Griswold award for "statesmanship." If all goes well, we hope to give him as warm a reception as we gave to Westmoreland.

War Crimes Charged

When Westmoreland did not speak, Jack Smith, head of the Connecticut VVAW, read an indictment which charged Westmoreland with "crimes against humanity on the scale of those tried at Nuremburg." The charges include the authorization of free fire zones which have destroyed thousands of Vietnamese villages, the use of anti-personnel weapons designed to cripple and maim, the ordering of mass aerial bombing, and the policy of forced relocation and search and destroy operations, all of which have resulted in the removal of 35% of the people and the destruction of their homes, crops, and villages.

Chants of "Guilty!" arose after every charge, but Gen. Westmoreland was not there to answer them. He had chosen not to face the demonstrators and had retreated to the Pentagon. A sign carried by one of the demonstrators read "Phillip Berrigan lies in jail, William Westmoreland lies at Yale." It might have read "William Westmoreland flies from Yale."

The demonstration did not stop with the denunciation of Gen. Westmoreland but was transformed into a teach-in on the war which focused on the Vet's "Winter Soldier" film. The now-quiet audience viewed testimony on war atrocities by men who had served under Westmoreland's command. Afterwards, action continued with a march to WTNH TV to demand a television screening of the film. On the following day, station officials viewed the film and guaranteed station time to the Vets.

There have been numerous criticisms of the demonstration on the grounds that it infringed upon Westmoreland's "freedom of Speech." It should be pointed out, however, that Westmoreland was not kept from speaking by demonstrators. In fact he was urged by Yale officials to enter the auditorium and speak, but instead he "turned tail and ran" from the confrontation.

Harrisburg Case Ends In Mistrial

by Reed Smith
Waterbury Committee of Conscience

The primary conspiracy charge against the Harrisburg Seven ended in a mistrial April 5, after 59 hours of jury deliberation, because of a hung jury. Ten jurors voted for acquittal and two for conviction.

The government's charges against the Harrisburg Seven of conspiracy to kidnap Presidential advisor Kissinger, blow up government heating ducts, and destroy draft records created nothing but confusion for the jury in its first week of deliberation. The jury asked several times for a rereading of Judge Herman's instructions in the complicated case.

The jury was struggling to reach verdicts on the conspiracy charge plus nine other charges each dealing with contraband letters between Sister Elizabeth McAlister and Father Philip Berrigan. The jury did find Father Berrigan guilty of four of these counts and Sister Elizabeth guilty of three.

'Guilty' of Letter Smuggling

The letters in question were carried in and out of Lewisberg Penitentiary by Boyd Douglas, the paid FBI informer. A maximum sentence of ten years could be imposed for each of these convictions. Defense attorney Paul O'Dwyer pointed out that prosecution for contraband mail in and out of prisons was almost unprecedented. The defense does not expect the contraband letter conviction to stand after appeal.

The jury began deliberations Thursday March 30 after a two hour charge by Judge Herman which Sister McAlister characterized as "the best argument of the prosecution. The defense was bitter that the judge's charge to the jury seemed to be a concise wrap-up of the government's case and did not include any of the defense's cross-examination victories.

The defense had announced its surprise decision a week earlier to rest its case without presenting any witnesses. The decision came after Judge Herman refused to grant immunity to defense witnesses, even though he had granted immunity to government witnesses.

Vendetta by Hoover?

The judge had also denied a defense motion that they be permitted to argue discriminatory prosecution. This motion was based on the defense's contention that the defendants were singled out by a spiteful government just because they had embarassed FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. Father Dan Berrigan, Father Phil's brother, had eluded the FBI for four months in 1970 after his conviction for destroying draft records in Catonsville, Maryland.

After the defense complained about the judge's prejudicial charge to the jury, the judge called the jury back and charged them to also consider letters by Boyd Douglas that had been introduced by the defense. The letters revealed that Douglas was trying to recruit students into the conspiracy plot. The judge did not remind the jury of Douglas's written request for a $50,000 fee for his services.

Defense attorney Ramsey Clark, U.S. Attorney General under Lyndon Johnson, moved one woman juror to tears in his summation when he quoted President Kennedy as " 'looking forward to an America that is not afraid of grace and beauty' just as the defendants looked forward to a world of peace and freedom."

FBI Provocation

In final testimony under cross-examination by defense attornies before the summation, the government witness Delmar Mayfield, Jr., an FBI agent, admitted supplying Boyd Douglas, the FBI informer on the defendants, with explosives manuals

See Seven Conspiracy Page 11.

Area Folks In Harrisburg March

A bus of New Haveners attended the April 1 peace and justice demonstration in Harrisburg, Penn., scene of the trial of the Harrisburg 7. The group, largely organized by the New Haven Committee to Free Angela Davis, joined 10,000 other demonstrators from the Pennsylvania area in a march down the inaugural parade route of that state's capitol city. Freeing of the Harrisburg defendants, Angela Davis, and ending the war in Vietnam were the main slogans of the demonstration. Above, the New Haven sign during the march to the rally site on the capitol grounds. Speakers included Fania Jordan, Daniel Ellsberg, Dan Berrigan, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, a phone call from Madame Binh (Vietnam's negotiator in the Paris Peace talks), among others.

M-T photo by Joe Taylor

Antiwar Actions Slated For April

APRIL 15 – APRIL 22 – Peace Action Week in New Haven.

Saturday, APRIL 15 – DAY OF NEW HAVEN ANTIWAR ACTIVITIES.

10 - 12 AM. Veterans panel of testimony on the air war.
12 - 2 PM. Antiwar Rally on the New Haven Green.
2 - 5 PM. Leafletting in the community. Panel: GI resistance in the army.
7 PM on. Commemorative for the war dead and concert on the Green.

Sunday, APRIL 16 – TEACH-IN ON THE AIR WAR. 7 PM at Battel Chapel, Yale. Noam Chomsky, Fred Banfman, and other speakers.

Monday, APRIL 17– ANTIWAR DEM– ONSTRATION AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AT SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT in Stratford. Assemble at 8 AM on the New Haven Green for transportation. For more information contact the AIR WAR COLLECTIVE at 776-7453.

Wednesday, APRIL 19 – NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SPEAK-OUTS AGAINST THE WAR called by the National Student Mobilization Committee to end the War in Southeast Asia. In the New Haven area, since schools are on vacation that week, speak-outs will be held the week before. Call 432-0099 for more info.

Thursday, APRIL 20 – PROTEST DEMONSTRATION TO GREET SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS when he comes to Yale to receive an award.

Saturday, APRIL 22 – NATIONAL ANTIWAR DEMONSTRATIONS IN NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES called by National Peace Action Coalition. For more information and bus tickets contact NHPAC at 53 Wall St., New Haven, Conn. 06510, 777-4265.

Anti-War Rally Planned at Sikorsky

from the New Haven Air War Collective
Special to Modern Times

An anti-war rally and civil disobedience demonstration will be held at the Sikorsky division of United Aircraft on Monday, April 17. Sikorsky, which makes helicopters and helicopter parts used in Viet Nam, is located in Stratford.

One of the main points of the demonstration is to show that the air war defense industry is not beneficial to the people of Connecticut. United Aircraft is the dominant defense industry in this state. At Sikorsky alone, fluctuations in employment levels are great, depending on the expenditures of the Pentagon. In 1958 the plant employed 11,000 workers. Two years later this figure had dropped to 7,400. By 1965 the trend was reversing, however, and in 1968 the hiring figure was back up to 10,500. This year the roller-coaster has dropped again--to a low of 6,000.

Who Profits from War

Our goal is to emphasize that Sikorsky Aircraft participates in both the death and destruction of the Indochinese people and the unemployment of thousands of American working men and women. The air war industry is not profitable enterprise for those 4,500 men and women laid off by the plant in the past four years, nor the 6,000 lacking job security and possibly being pressured into taking wage cuts. The profit goes only to an elite corps of businessmen and generals who continue to design more and more efficient death weapons.

Sikorsky officials predict that, if they win the contract for the Cheyenne helicopter, business will boom by the end of this decade. But the nature of this "boom" has already been demonstrated--by the 1980's the curve will have again turned downward. This means we can look forward to even more large-scale lay-offs.

The demonstration at the Sikorsky plant is part of a week long anti-war effort lasting from April 15 to April 20, as listed in the "Anti-War Calendar."

Council's Letter Berates Meskill For Insensitivity

by Patti Miller
Modern Times Staff

In a recent letter to Governor Meskill, the Human Relations Council of Greater New Haven stated that it "deplores" three positions that have recently been taken by Meskill and his administration. Meskill has favored the retention of capital punishment, opposed the elimination of segregated schools by busing, and supported Welfare Commissioner White's opposition to the right of poor people to bring legal actions in court against agencies of the government.

The Council said in its letter to Meskill that these three positions "represent an insensitivity to the social problems in today's world, and indeed a lack of feeling on your part for the problem of humankind."

The Council feels that, if Meskill is really opposed to segregated schools in Connecticut, then he should support programs that would eliminate the problem. Busing is one way to deal with it. Meskill's position leads the council to believe that the Governor doesn't find racially segregated schools "objectionable", and therefore he is "not interested in eliminating this dreadful condition."

The letter also said that the Council couldn't understand Meskill's objection to poor people sueing government agencies. The only alternative action that the Council could see in a case where governmental agencies act unlawfully towards poor people is poor people rioting. Is the Governor advocating this?

Lastly, the Council said, "We disagree with your statement calling for retention of capital punishment. Research indicates that it is not a deterent to crime." The Council sees it only as a form of revenge.

The letter urged Meskill to reconsider his positions and "adopt a more humane and sensitive attitude toward the problems which pervade our society...."

Tenant Reps Help Plan Housing

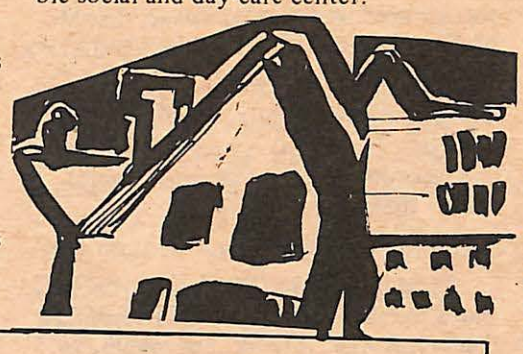
by Karen Wolff
Modern Times Staff

The Tenants Representative Council (TRC) received important recognition recently when it was named as a co-planner with the Housing Authority (HA) in a new federally funded program, Comprehensive Housing and Management System. The program is designed to initiate tenant involvement in the improvement of public housing. $1.3 million were allocated.

The TRC worked closely with the HA last summer to draw up the proposal. Leroy Gomes, president of the TRC said he was pleasantly surprised that New Haven received one of the first trial grants. Mr. Gomes suggested that the Department of Housing and Urban Development would attempt to cut back financial support, but hoped that the tenant involvement aspect of the program would escape further fund reductions. In the next few weeks, he plans to work closely with HA, the mayor's office, and HUD to insure the program's success.

There were six major goals stated in the proposal: (1) To ensure service and maintanence (2) To foster tenant leadership and involvement; (3) To enhance economic mobility and social welfare of residents; (4) To develop more comprehensive housing by establishing contact with realtors and assessing available property; (5) To expand HA to include moderate and poor income housing (6) To improve the public image of the HA in New Haven.

Internally, the TRC *is going through some basic reorganization. Their relationship with HA has improved* with promises of equipment and possibly the old HA office on Ashmun Street. TRC also sees this new location as a possible social and day-care center.



The TRC reaffirmed in their last executive board meeting, their desire to continue to be an organization that was responsible to the tenants living in public housing. The council formed three committees to deal with complaints and modernization on a citywide basis, and sought to establish new relationships with the HA security police. So far tenant participation has been strong.

Dwight Teens Active in Center

The drill team at the Dwight Community Center interrupts a practice session to pose for a Modern Times photographer and proudly displays the many trophies it has won. (M-T photo by Ray Milici.)

Angela Davis Rebuts Circumstantial Evidence

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

The prosecution opened its case against Angela Davis in a San Francisco courtroom on March 27, and admitted that its entire case rested on "circumstantial evidence." Davis is charged with conspiracy to murder and kidnap in connection with the courtroom shootout at Marin County on August 7, 1970.

Angela Davis, who is a member of the Communist Party, is defending herself in the case, along with other prominent attorneys. In her opening statement as defense attorney, she proclaimed her innocence, systematically rebutted each item of circumstantial evidence offered by the prosecution, and hinted at what many people think is the real reason for the trial: that she is being persecuted as a test case by the right-wing Nixon administration because of her position as an outspoken black woman Communist.

"My political commitment, my political experience," she said, "including in the Communist Party, has manifested itself in terms of what I am capable of doing writing, teaching, speaking and organizing around the plight of all oppressed people, political prisoners in general, the Soledad Brothers specifically, and thereby helping to organize an effective political movement for progressive social change."

Not a Frame-Up

The prosecutor, Assistant Attorney General Albert Harris, denied that the trial was a "political frame-up," and insisted it was "not an instance of a political persecution or of a racist persecution."

The prosecutor admitted that there are "no surviving witnesses to conversations" in the alleged conspiracy, and that the jurors "must rely on evidence from which you can reasonably infer" that she was involved in a conspiracy.

In a surprise reversal of tactics, Harris asked that the first overt act cited in the original conspiracy indictment be deleted. This was a record of Angela Davis' participation in a rally demanding freedom for the Soledad Brothers. Harris now insists she was not activated by the political movement for change in the penal system. Instead, the prosecutor claimed that Davis participated in the alleged conspiracy because she was in love with George Jackson, one of the defendants in the case of the "Soledad Brothers".

Angela Davis was co-chairwoman of the Committee to Defend the Soledad Brothers. She worked in that committee to build wide support for those three men, other political prisoners and to improve prison conditions in general.

Davis scored the prosecution's claim that she engaged in a conspiracy "out of physical attraction." She told the jury, "it is understandable that Mr. Harris would like to take advantage of the fact that I am a woman and women in this society are supposed to act only in accordance with the dictates of their emotions and passions."

Working For a "Humane Society"

Stressing that "the prosecution's own evidence will show that I was not committed to individual acts of escape," Angela Davis told of her involvements in the "struggle to protect and extend the rights of working people" of all colors, the anti-war movement, the movement for women's equality, and the fight for academic freedom. "In all of my activi-

Continued on Page 11.

Easter Bunny Delights Hill Youth

In a surprise appearance, the famous Easter Bunny (Darcel Lee), came to the Hill Teen Center Easter party. He entertained children from the ages of 2-12, leading egg hunts, musical chairs, pin the tail on the bunny, and relay races. A dance contest was held and the winners were Monica and Donald Baker and Craig Jones. They were honored by special prizes and a dance with the Easter Bunny. Other game winners were: Daphne Barren, Craig Jones, Bridgett Glasheen, Gregory Barren, Monica Baker, Audrey Glenn, Tamboura Glenn and Kecia Preston. The gala affair lasted from 2-5 P.M. Easter surprises were given to all the children.

Editorial

Labor Pays For Business Mess

During the last few years, Americans have become increasingly aware of pollution. It wasn't because American corporations just opened their smokestacks, but because the amount of soot, bad air, and garbage has built up over the years to the point of being impossible to miss.

It is apparent that American corporations never considered the damaging effects of air and water pollutions as a cost of their production. It is estimated by the Federal Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that the yearly cost of air pollution alone to the American people is $16 billion–in health costs, damage to plant life and materials, and property values. The annual cost of a National Health Security program, which is continually being attacked by Nixon as too expensive, would be $16.5 billion.

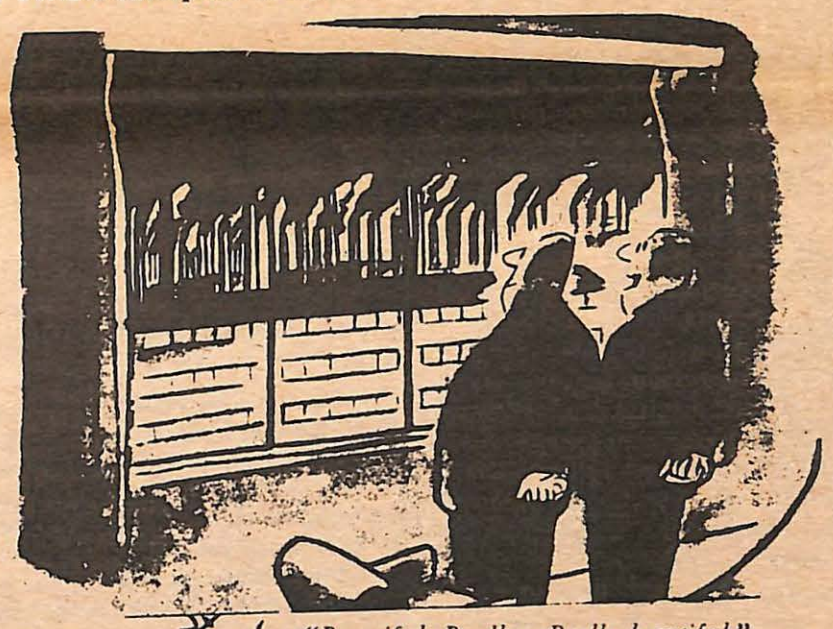
The CEQ estimated in its annual report for 1971, that the cost for meeting minimum pollution control standards from 1970-75 will come to $105 billion. This is less than the military budget for one year.

The CEQ claims that 40% of the clean-up bill will be paid by private industry and the rest by taxes on all levels. The largest single burden will fall on buyers and users of automobiles.

Pollution controls will add at least $240 to the cost of the 10 million cars expected to be sold in 1975. Operating and maintaining the control devices will cost $20 per car for the owners of the 100 million cars expected in 1975.

The council does not estimate the cost of new roads and parking garages needed to accomodate all these cars or the cost of replacing much of the need for cars with mass transit. One way or another, the entire $105 billion pollution bill will be paid by American workers in the form of increased cost of products, direct charges or taxes. This is the same way American workers have always been used to keep the profits rolling in for American corporations.

In order to control pollution, there must be careful, long term planning of our economy. The need for clean air and water and for sufficient resources for the well being of future generations must be planned for now. **Private enterprise** is not in that kind of business.



"Beautiful, Bradley. Really beautiful."

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need–not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Tony Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Beverly Gouaux, Harry Henderson, Liz Henderson, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Karl Lechow, Art Mazer, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Kathy Quinn, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell. Naomi Resnick. Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Dick Wieland, Mary Wieland, Henry Tamarin, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff.

How Monied Class Calls Shots in Politics

CONTRIBUTIONS OF 11 PROMINENT FAMILIES, 1968

Name	Number of Members Contributing	Total Dollar Contributions	Contribution Breakdown: Republican	Democratic	Miscellaneous
DUPONT	32	107,000	99,800	1,700	5,500
FIELD	4	39,000	2,000	17,000	20,000
FORD	8	109,750	57,750	52,000	—
HARRIMAN	2	17,000	16,500	—	500
LEHMAN	7	51,000	2,500	48,500	—
MELLON	22	298,962	278,962	17,000	3,000
OLIN	7	70,000	70,000	—	—
PEW	11	213,549	207,898	—	5,651
ROCKEFELLER	21	1,714,375	1,700,875	13,500	—
VANDERBILT	2	12,000	11,000	—	1,000
WHITNEY	6	133,500	133,500	—	—
TOTALS	122	2,766,136	2,580,785	149,700	35,651

Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

There's not much I need to say about the table printed on this page. It explains itself. In the last Presidential election in 1968, some 11 wealthy families contributed $2.8 million to political candidates. That amount of money was much larger than the total amount of money contributed that year by COPE, the political arm of the AFL-CIO labor unions.

Notice a few facts of special interest to New Haveners. The Mellon and Whitney families together pumped in over $430,000. Those two families are also *two of the most important donors of money to Yale University year after year.* Mellon's latest contribution to Yale will cost New Haven a lot: the whole block of Chapel Street between York Street and High Street. The stores and apartments there are all to be torn down to make room for a museum, which will mainly hold pieces of British art that Mr. Mellon donated from his private collection.

By contributing this way, Mellon saves millions in taxes, while New Haven loses thousands since Yale's museum will be tax-exempt unlike the stores and apartments that were once there.

What Olin Expects

Then there's the Olin family. Look at the $70,000 they gave to the Republican Party this way: it works out roughly to $25 per employee. The employees themselves can probably afford to pay almost nothing to the politicians. For the sake of the point I'm trying to make, let's assume the average employee does contribute $1 to a party. Then, the Olin family gives 25 times what an average employee family can afford.

In politics, like everywhere else, you get what you pay for. Olin can expect 25 times the favors from politicians than the average employee can ever expect.

Wealthy American families give more to Republicans than to Democrats. They also give a lot more than the table here shows because many contributions are made indirectly or secretly. So they never show up in the official statistics.

Class at the Top

The families and the huge corporations that they control run the political show put on by the two major parties in the USA. *The same families and the same corporations control Yale University and* thereby also control important parts of our lives here in New Haven.

As was mentioned in this column in the last issue of Modern Times in discussing the ITT scandal, we have to face the fact of a class of rich families and corporations that sit at the top of an undemocratic economy. The same names keep popping up when you try to find out who is really running things all the way from the Washington political scene to what counts in New Haven.

The table shows again how this class uses its unequal share of the national wealth to keep its top-dog privileges. It makes a mockery of the one-person-one-vote ideal of political democracy.

Before working people can really get very far in solving the serious probelms we face, we shall have to do something about this number one obstacle.

Write On

O'Casey-'s Creed

April 1, 1972

To the Editors:

Sean O'Casey wrote the following letter in response to a query from one of his friends.

Dear Friends,

The questions I'm asked! A letter in front of me wants to know the history of the O' Flahertys; one to the left asks me to find out if "Figeo" is a Gaelic name; and one to the right asks for a history of Napper Landry; now you ask if I am a believer or an unbeliever!

Of course in everything living and active in men, the facts of life and belief are one. I am only interested in the way a person (or a community) makes use of a belief. If he uses it to oppose man's advance, I immediately become an enemy. There is a tremendous distance between Faith and practice.

I am a Communist, but not merely a passing and wearisome Communist pamphlet, as well as being a believer in the philosophy of Karl Marx.

Personally, I am not a Christian, nor can I believe in the existence of a God. For man's salvation, I depend on man himself, and in the discoveries of his powerful mind, which we call Science.

All good wishes,

Sean O'Casey

Looks like Angela Davis is in good company.

Sincerely,

Sydney Berliner

Brazil Backs Yankee Dollar

World Affairs

"The economy's doing fine, but the people are not." **Emilio Medici, President of Brazil, New York Times December 8, 1971.**

From the Features Service of North American Congress on Latin America

In 1964 a coup brought to power a right-wing military dictatorship in Brazil which was recognized within 24 hours by the United States government. This coup joined together the interests of the military with those of both foreign and Brazilian capitalists. A large-scale "development program" was begun, which meant that more amd more investment money (capital) became concentrated in the hands of the big industrialists. Today less than a million wealthy Brazilians monopolize an income equivalent to that of the 72 million poorest people in the country.

What has this economic policy meant for the Brazilian people? Between 1964 and 1971 real earnings fell by 54%. By 1969 a worker had to work more than double the time he or she worked in 1965 to buy a kilo of bread or beans. In the Northeast of the country 60% of the children suffer from malnutrition. Poverty in the countryside has caused a mass migration of workers to the cities in search of jobs. But for the most there are no jobs to be had.

Because of the low wages paid, Brazilians cannot afford to buy all of the new goods which they produce. So businessmen must find new markets and new places to generate capital. Exports of manufactured goods have increased along with large purchases by the military. Exports of products the people need just to live--such as beef--have also increased. The price of beef was raised beyond the reach of many of the Brazilian people, so there was more to send abroad--between 1964 and 1969 the amount of beef exported quadrupled.

The government budget for 1972 allots 18.7% of the total to the military while Public Health receives 1.2% and Education, 5.3%

U.S. Warming to Brazil

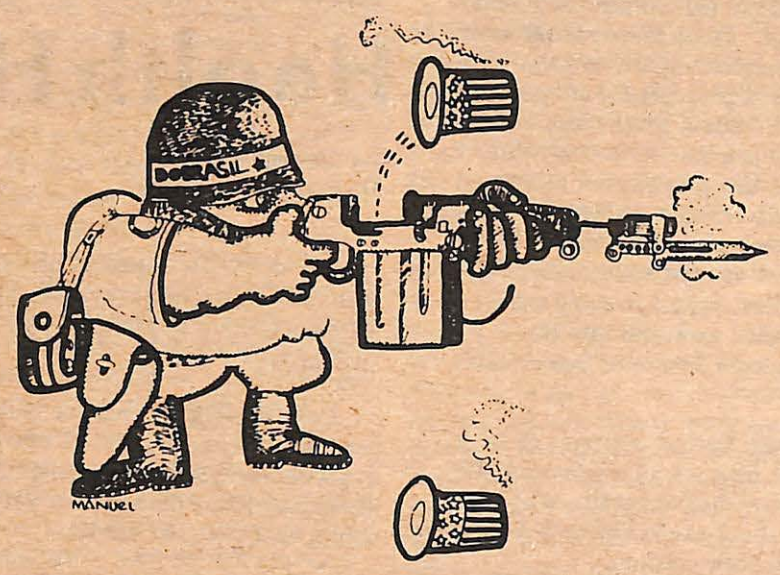
The relations between the United States and Brazil have become closer. Between the press reports of tortures, repression, murders and censorship in Brazil, we read that Nixon has invited President Medici to the White House. Amid the cries of Brazilians being interrogated with electric shock, we read of increased U.S. AID to Brazil ($187 million in 1971).

American banks and corporations have moved into the Brazilian economy in force. Furthermore by working through Brazilian firms, U.S. companies provide themselves with a Latin cover for the Yankee dollar. While unemployment increases in the United States, goods made by the U.S. controlled firms (with Brazilian names) will be sold throughout the continent.

The U.S. government's plans for the Brazilian military complement the plans of the American investors. Brazil will act as the U.S. watchdog in Latin America.

If military intervention in some other Latin American country were to become necessary, Brazil rather than the United States would take the initial step of repression.

The term "sub-imperialism" has been used increasingly in reference to Brazil in the past year. What the term means is not that Brazil is an imperialist power itself; rather it is being forged into a military and economic tool of U.S. imperialism. Brazil, the largest country in all of the Americas, is critical for increasing U.S. domination over the rest of Latin America.



Why Imperialism Leads To War

The ABC of Socialism
by Leo Huberman

What is socialism? What do socialists really believe? What's it got to do with America, with New Haven, with the here and now? In answer to questions *like these from our readers,* **Modern Times** *decided to publish a series of articles from Leo Huberman's famous pamphlet,* **The ABC of Socialism**. *The following is the seventh in the series.*

Imperialism and War

Large scale monopoly industry brought with it greater development of the productive forces than ever before. The power of the industrialists to produce goods grew at a more rapid rate than the power of their countrymen to consume them. That meant they had to sell goods outside the home country. They *had* to find foreign markets which would absorb their surplus manufactures.

Where to find them?

There was only one answer---colonies.

The necessity for finding markets for surplus manufactured goods was only one part of the pressure for colonies. Large scale mass production needs vast supplies of raw materials. Rubber, oil, nitrates, tin, copper, nickel--these, and a host of others, were raw materials which were necessary to monopoly capitalists everywhere. They wanted to own or control the sources of those necessary raw materials. This was a second factor making for imperialism.

But more important than either of these pressures was the necessity for finding a market for another surplus--the surplus of capital.

This was the major cause of imperialism.

Monopoly industry brought huge profits to its owners. Superprofits. More money than the owners knew what to do with. More money than they could possibly spend. More money than they could find an outlet for in income-creating investment at home. An overaccumulation of capital.

This alliance of industry and finance seeking profits in markets for goods and capital was the mainspring of imperialism. So J. A. Hobson thought, back in 1902, when he published his pioneer study on the subject: "Imperialism is the endeavor of the great controllers of industry to broaden the channel for the flow of their surplus wealth by seeking foreign markets and foreign investments to take off the goods and capital they cannot sell or use at home."

The treatment of colonial peoples varied from time to time and from place to place. But the atrocities were general--no imperialist nation had clean hands. Leonard Woolf, an acknowledged expert on the subject wrote: "Just as in national society in Europe there have appeared in the last century clearly defined classes, capitalists and workers, exploiters and exploited, so too in international society there have appeared clearly defined classes, the imperialist Powers of the West and the subject races of Africa and the East, the one ruling and exploiting, the other ruled and exploited."

Public Money For Big Business

As with other imperialist nations, so with the United States. The profits from all the private investments went to the financial groups involved, but government policy, government money, and government force were employed to make available and to safeguard their private ventures.

President Taft was frank about the tie-up that existed between monopoly capitalist necessity and government policy. "While our foreign policy should not be turned a hair's breadth from the straight path of justice, it may well be made to include active intervention to secure for our merchandise and our capitalists opportunity for profitable investment."

In the 20th century, in every great industrial nation, monopoly capitalism grew, and with it the problem of what to do with surplus capital and surplus products. When the various giants in control of their own national markets met on the international markets there was, first, competition---long, hard, bitter. And then, agreements, associations, cartels, on an international basis.

With these huge international combines making arrangements for parcelling out the world market, it would seem that competition must cease and a period of lasting peace begin. But that does not happen, because the strength relations are constantly changing. Some companies grow larger and more powerful, while others decline. Thus what was a fair division at one moment becomes unfair later. There is discontent on the part of the stronger group and a struggle for a larger quota follows. Each government springs to the defense of its own nationals. The inevitable result is war.

Imperialism leads to war. But war doesn't settle anything permanently. The hostilities which can no longer be resolved by bargaining round a table do not disappear because the bargaining is done with the arguments of high explosives, atom bombs, maimed men, and mutilated corpses.

No. The hunt for markets must go on. Monopoly capitalism must have its outlet for surplus goods and capital and new wars will continue to be fought so long as monopoly capitalism continues to exist.

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SCCC to Offer Media Technology

by Patti Miller
SCCC Student

Mal Luber, chairman of the art department of South Central Community College, has been busy devising a Media Technology Curriculum for the school. The plan for this new program was voted on by the Board of Trustees in Hartford on March 28.

The proposed Media Technology Curriculum offers students a two-year program that consists of a variety of courses. These courses cover most of the technical aspects of film-making and photography along with the basic English, psychology, and sociology courses. A student who enrolls in this program can receive an Associate Degree in Media Technology and will be able to transfer to another college with credit. New York university will accept SCCC graduates into its undergraduate School of Cinema and T.V.

South Central is interested in recruiting high school seniors and also members of the community who want to learn about media and how it affects them and their children.

Media Center Goal

The college is looking for educational and social agencies that would help to create a Media Resource Center. Luber feels that "a community college is a logical place to have a community media center that can be shared by various members of the community."

Luber is enthusiastic about this program, no doubt partly because he designed the curriculum, and also because he has a sincere interest in media himself. Currently he is conducting a program of media workshops at Hill Central K-4, with the cooperation of Dave Rubin, president of the school. The seven workshops are designed to acquaint teachers with creative uses of T.V., film-making, photography and other multi-media.

Luber is looking for new ways to make the curricula at SCCC a "more valid community service." *He'd like to get "more relevant programs instituted at the school, and not waste time training students in areas where they can't get jobs."*

Three New Programs

He has in the works a Design Technology Program which will be geared toward the teaching of technical aspects of design in drafting, architecture and technical design. He would also like to have an expanded program in the Fine Arts which would offer sculpture, graphics, Children's Toys and Playground Design and more. Next year he will begin writing a curriculum for the Graphic Arts, which will include courses in silk screening, printing and sign-making. "Everything hinges on space and money," Luber said.

He clearly defined his hopes for the college when he said, "I look forward to the time when SCCC will serve as a community resource center for all of the fine arts as well as provide media information in order to help members of the community better deal with their environment and their social relationship to their city."

Mal Luber (M-T photo by Dave Vine)

Film Festival
Liberation Struggles Around the World

Sunday April 30
101 Linsley-Chit, High Street
between Chapel and Elm

4 films

"Children of the Revolution"
new men, new women in Cuba

"End of the Dialogue": South Africa
American premier

"West Africa: Another Vietnam?"
people's war in Portugese Guinea

"Chile Puts on Long Pants"
Chile since Allende's election

2 showings: 7 and 9:30 pm

$1.00 admission-benefit Angela
Davis Bookstore

Health Hints: Run For Your Life

by George Johnson
Modern Times Staff

Good health depends on two factors. One is diet (see *Modern Times March 15, 1972).* The other is exercise.

Unfortunately, it's hard to know just how to exercise right. It's very easy to get discouraged after working for weeks only to see the same old you staring back from the mirror.

Don't be discouraged. All that muscle building stuff isn't really exercise--it's cosmetics. All medical studies agree that the only health building exercise is some form of aerobic exercise. Aerobic exercise is just a big word way of describing exercise that develops the heart, lungs and blood vessels. If these are in good shape, so are you. If not, then you're not, even if you look like a swimsuit ad.

To get into it a little more, there are *some good paperbacks: "Aerobics" and "The New Aerobics" by Kenneth Cooper, M.D.: "Jogging, Aerobics and Diet" by* Roy Ald is probably the best single book. Any of these books tell how to plan your program to suit your needs.

Some basics are important. First, a doctor's exam. Second, develop a program you like and get into it slowly. Slow each day (plenty of warmup) and slow overall (the worst thing is to kill yourself the first few times out--a sure guarantee you'll quit). Remember, the idea is to develop a lifetime program. So the proper motto is: "Train, Don't Strain."

To exercise properly, and that means aerobically, you've got to do some exercise that makes your heart beat about 155/160 beats per minute and keep it at that level for the duration of the exercise. This means bicycling, swimming, or, best of all, jogging.

After you've been at it for a while, you'll feel so good you won't want to stop. You'll sleep better, eat less, quit smoking and develop an energy you didn't know you had. It's great for your head, too--the day's problems drop off somewhere halfway through your run. Try it. You'll like it.

Holiday Magic Tricks Are Exposed

Have you heard about Holiday Magic, Inc.? If not you may shortly from a friend or neighbor. It's a cosmetic firm that operates on a "multi-level" sales approach. Not only does the company attempt to sell the product at the neighborhood level, but it also tries to sell the idea that it's a good company to invest in and work for. Unfortunately, working for the company means that you have to invest your own money to get started. Many people have already been involved with the company and it has proved to be a disappointing experience for quite a few. If you have been approached already and are thinking of investing in the company, the following article is of special interest.

Holiday Magic, Inc., has been operating in the New Haven area recently despite being the subject of an official complaint by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for over a year. The firm, organized in California in 1964, has been the target of civil suits and criminal prosecution in several states, including California, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The grounds for legal action range from alleged consumer fraud and deceptive practices to violations of the states' security laws.

The FTC charges the company with running a deceptive "multi-level" sales program. Such a program induces customers to buy sales franchises and the cosmetic products and also to sell other franchises. In reality the only way to make a profit is through the sale of franchises and not of the retail goods. Because the market in any community is limited, there will shortly be too many franchises for anyone to make a profit, except perhaps the wholesaler, known as a "General Distributor" who supplied the area from the beginning.

A Big Risk

In some states the company is charged with violation of the anti-lottery law because of the large element of chance involved. If you are the first person in your neighborhood to purchase a franchise, you have an opportunity to make a profit that the last person in the neighborhood who buys a franchise does not have. Unfortunately, and here is where the element of chance enters in, there is no way of telling how much competition there is before making the initial investment.

Another practice of the firm, which is being challenged by the FTC, is that it claims in want ads that employment is being offered when the true purpose of these advertisements is to find prospective investors.

According to the Council of Better Business Bureaus, Holiday Magic and the International Association of Multi-Level Distributors sought a temporary restraining order on November 22, 1971. The order was to prevent the release of a cautionary report by the Better Business Bureau pointing out the hazards of investing in multi-level sales programs. The temporary restraining order was denied by the Federal District Court.

Holiday Magic is still free to operate in Connecticut, although the state is taking legal action against a similar firm, Koscot Interplanetary of Florida. Koscot and its founder, Glenn W. Turner, have attracted national attention through the similar use of a "multi-level" sales program and a grandiose promotional program.

If someone comes to your door representing Holiday Magic, you should investigate the situation thoroughly. Some things that may be helpful to learn would be the size of the sales district that you would be responsible for, how many other people have sales franchises in that area, and how long they have been operating. It is important that you have all these facts at your disposal before making the commitment to invest money. Another helpful tip is to take a quick survey of your friends and neighbors to see if they might be interested in purchasing these cosmetics. If out of ten people, not one is interested in buying anything, you should think twice about the investment. Unless, of course, you like having a six months supply of cosmetics around the house.

brass tacks

It's hard to build a strong organized movement of working people. But this is what we must have to bring about the progressive changes America so badly needs. There are many different views on how to do this. We open this column to you, our readers, to exchange ideas and to discuss tactics and strategies. Please send us your ideas and your responses to what you read here.

by Joe Tinker

Several months ago I was having my lunch in a tavern in Meriden opposite one of those old five-story red brick factories built almost 100 years ago. In front of the building a group of young people were handing out leaflets on air pollution. The plant was a heavy polluter.

Most of the customers in the tavern were obviously from that factory and one of them said, "Them with their clean air, they don't care if we lose our jobs."

There is some truth in this bitter remark. The anti-pollution movement is basically middle class and is concerned with the broadest aspects of the problem and in those areas where they, the middle class, are affected. A good example was the anti-noise campaign in New York City which was directed against construction equipment such as jack hammers and air compressors. The newspapers and the Mayor's office all got into the act of protecting the 'public' from those ear-splitting noises. Nobody, but nobody, showed any concern for the men who operated these machines. They were getting the direct blows on their ears and their bodies. Did the 'public' really believe that construction workers get their kicks bucking a jack hammer?

Fighting Pollution means More Jobs

Everyone, including the guy in the tavern, is in favor of cleaner air, water, and less noise. But to the working person there is the implicit threat that plants might be forced to close and jobs wiped out.

A recent new item in the **New Haven Register** helps to feed that fear. It had the following two-column caption:

"Report Fears Anti-Pollution Controls May Cost 125,000 Jobs in 4 Years"

You had to read the whole thing carefully to learn that it referred to the whole country and not just Connecticut, and that it was speculation.

The real facts would prove a much stronger case in the opposite direction. Air pollution control, water purification and acoustical engineering will create many new jobs in the manufacturing, fabrication and installation of the equipment required.

Pollution and noise are with us most of the day. If you work in New Haven, the Bridgeport area, or in the Valley, you know it on your way to work. At work, every plant has its special form of torture. The air can have oil and coolant suspension, lint, acid fumes, grit from grinding and buffing machines, paint spray, dust, welding fumes, etc. It all depends on what the product is and the machines used.

Who ever heard of a quiet factory? Whether it is 100 sewing machines, or a line of punch presses, or a battery of drop forges, or power shears, or presses--a worker is constantly being deafened.

Workers Can Do It

The emission of smoke and soot from power plants and factories, the filth in the waters, and the noise are products of the employers' drive for maximum profits. It would cost money to prevent all this from happening. But no employer is going to spend a nickel to improve conditions unless he is pushed against the wall. Unionized workers can begin to deal with these matters through grievance machinery, job actions or in contracts. Unless they do something soon, a lot of them won't live long enough to collect their pensions and the rest will be wearing hearing aids.

About six months ago a steelworker in a plant in Pittsburgh decided to take matters in his hands. Part of his job was to operate the equipment which opened the valves and sluice gates which dumped the sludge into the Allegheny River. One fine day he simply refused to do it; he was having no further part of water pollution. He was discharged, but the union fought his case and won. Imagine workers doing this in all those plants on the Naugatuck River, the Connecticut River, the Quinnipiac, the Housatonic and on the Sound?

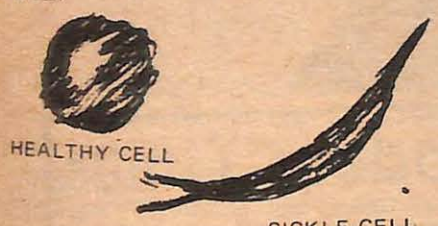
It wasn't too long ago when people went fishing and clamming in all those rivers and in the Sound. Today, for those simple pleasures one has to go to New London, or further up the coast. We live with pollutants most of the week and are forced to travel for hours to get away from them on the weekends.

The sad part of all this is that we, the workers, are part of the problem. None of the filth-producing and noise-making machinery would be operating if we didn't operate them. None of us wants to be part of this self-destructive process and individually we remain helpless. Our places of work can be made bearable when programs are developed on a shop by shop basis to eliminate the causes. This sort of action need not wait for contract time--living and breathing and hearing are more important than expiration dates.

What Is The Sickle Cell?

by Peter Jackson
Modern Times Staff

Sickle cell anemia (SCA) is a neglected disease. It is a hereditary disease of the blood and occurs mainly in black people. Maybe that is is why it is neglected. In New Haven, until very recently, the only groups working to spread information about the disease and to test possible victims have been the free health clinic - the Bobby Huggins Clinic run by the Black Panther Party in Dixwell and the Hill Health Center. This month the South Central SCA Committee is beginning a campaign in the public schools as well.



The reason SCA only affects black people is because it is caused by a genetic abnormality, carried only by a minority of black people, which makes the hemoglobin in the blood slightly different from normal. The hemoglobin is the red substance in blood. The hemo globin does not simply float around in the blood, but exists inside the red blood corpuscles.

In SCA the abnormal hemoglobin molecules no longer remain separate from each other but begin to clump together. This causes the red cells to change from their normal round shape to a crescent or sickle shape (see photo of blood cell) which can easily be seen through a microscope. In this state the blood cell can no longer function. The sickle cells tend to block small blood vessels in the tissues and are prematurely destroyed. *The body continually has to make up for these cells at a rate much higher than* normal. As a result the sufferers are anemic and have recurrent crises in which they have severe pain in the abdomen, joints and bones, leg ulcers, thrombosis, lassitude, exhaustion, yellow jaundice and general ill health. Few people with SCA live beyond 30 years.

No Cure Yet

In SCA all the hemoglobin is abnormal. This affects about one percent of all black Americans. There is another much more common disease called sickle cell trait (SCT) in which only half the hemoglobin is abnormal. This disease affects about ten percent of all black Americans and about three percent of Puerto Ricans. It is rarely seen in whites.

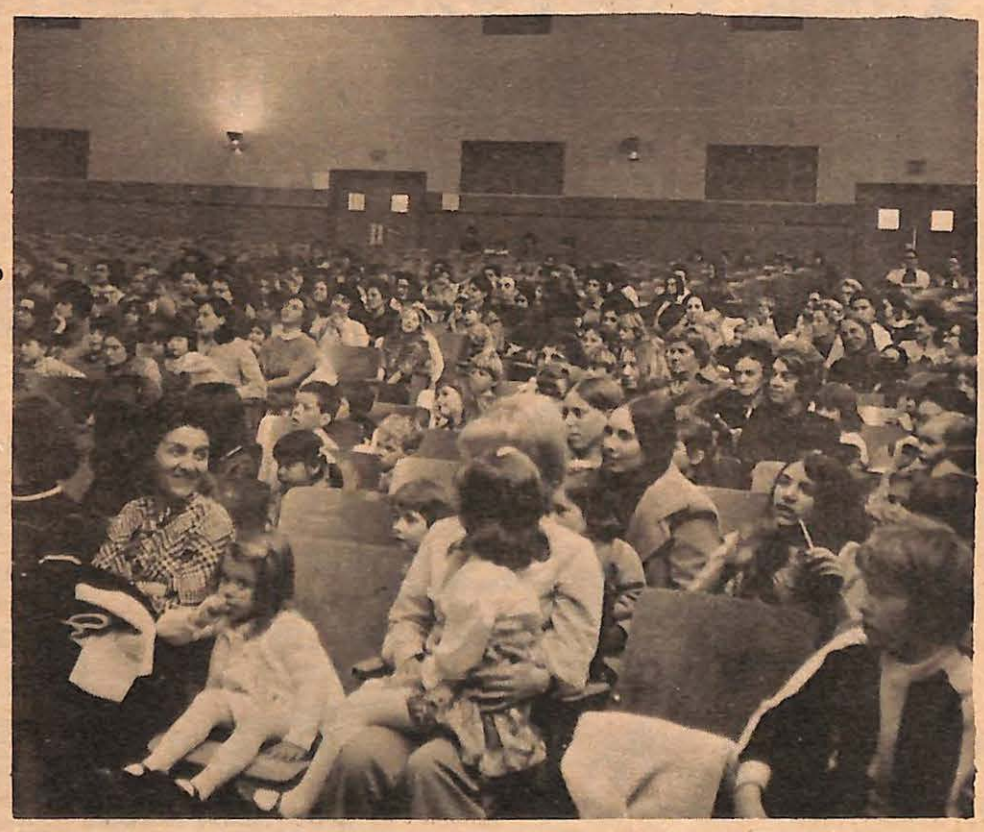
Both SCA and SCT are caused by genetic abnormalities and passed from generation to generation.
They are not infectious and cannot be prevented or cured in the same way as diseases such as typhoid or polio. A person with SCA or SCT will have abnormal blood all life long.

Until now treatment has mostly been to ease painful symptoms. Some recent research has shown that the recurrent crises can be relieved by using urea, a cheap and common chemical, but the treatment requires expensive, intensive care.

What is desperately needed is a large research effort to find other more practicable ways of relieving the symptoms. Both houses of Congress have passed bills to fund such research. However, it will be some time before they agree on how much money to provide and send the bill on to the President. Just as important is the need for nation-wide testing of all black people for SCA and SCT. The test can be done simply and quickly with only a few drops of blood and a cheap chemical kit. There should also be a massive education campaign about what therapy is available.

Puppets Show And Tell

The B. Gay Puppets, the highly praised puppet team of Bayonne, New Jersey, presented a program of delightful children's stories at the Branford Senior High School Auditorium at 3 P.M. on Sunday afternoon, April 9. A benefit for the testing and research for sickle cell anemia, the puppeteers performed "The Golden Melon," a beautiful Chinese legend, and "The Upside-Down Family," a comedy of American life-styles. The third part of the program was "People and Puppets," during which the puppets were brought down to talk with children in the audience in a unique kind of show and tell.



Charlie Chaplin: The First Artist of Modern Times

THE GREAT DICTATOR (1940)

By Peter O'Connell
Modern Times Staff

The following is the second half of a two-part article dealing in some detail with the life, art, and politics of Charlie Chaplin. The first half covered the period from 1889 to 1936.

Maybe Charlie Chaplin on his trip to the United States will visit the workers at the GM Vega plant. In **Modern Times,** filmed 36 years ago and originally titled **The Masses,** Chaplin directed his famous brand of humor against the same speedup, over-automation, and alienation that the GM workers struck against. Of the film, Chaplin said: "It started from...an impulse to say something about the way life is being standardized and channelized, and men turned into machines...."

In **Modern Times** Charlie works *in a huge factory supervised by a boss who uses 1984-type television surveillance, even in the bathroom. The little fellow's job is nothing but tightening bolt after bolt on an endless assembly line.* Several times he gets caught in the cogs of the machines he works with.

Eventually the assembly line drives Charlie "crazy." He runs wild through the factory, throwing switches and tightening everything in sight--including the foreman's nose. He has further adventures outside and keeps getting arrested. Once he picks up a red danger flag from a truck and is mistaken as the leader of a communist demonstration.

In **The Great Dictator** (1940) Chaplin used the theme of mistaken identity to attack fascism, which he saw as the inhuman result of a system based on greed and power. In **The Great Dictator,** a Jewish barber, played by Chaplin, is mistaken for Adenoid Hynkel, Furore of Tomania, also played by Chaplin. In addition to the coincidence of physically resembling Hitler, Chaplin was born the same week as the dictator. But while Hitler's down-and-out early life on city streets led him to spread hate and destruction through the world, Chaplin's similar experiences led him to spread warmth and creativity through his art. **The Great Dictator** ends with a moving speech by the little barber: "Hate of man will pass, and dictators die, and the power they took from the people will return to the people."

MONSIEUR VERDOUX (1947)

Chaplin turned his anti-fascism into *action during the late '30s and the '40s by supporting such activities as union* organizing drives and calling for the early opening of a second front to defeat Hitler.

War, Murder, Business

In **Monsieur Verdoux** (1947) Chaplin further explored the effects of capitalism and war upon "little men." As Hitler was the opposite of Chaplin, Verdoux is the opposite of "Charlie." Verdoux is a clerk who becomes a successful businessman by murdering women to get money to support his family. Chaplin remarked: "Von Clausewitz said that war is the logical extension of diplomacy; M. Verdoux feels that murder is the logical extension of business."

Verdoux dies at the end, but the release of the film marked the beginning of an attempt by right-wing politicians to bring Chaplin's career to an end. By 1947 big business and its bureaucrats were waging a campaign against the gains made by revolutionary movements abroad and progressive movements at home. Harassing investigations and restrictive laws like the Taft-Hartley Act and the Nixon-Mundt Act were used against the labor movement, antiwar groups, teachers, immigrants, black organizations, and others. "Fighting communism" was the excuse used for these witch-hunts. Thousands of writers, directors, actors, singers, and broadcasters were accused of communism and forced from stage and screen by means of blacklist and boycott.

The Target

Of course Chaplin, "the little guy," was a big target. The big boys didn't want his popularity to survive. The artist of change and critic of capitalism had been slightly harassed for his views as early as 1921. Asked then if he was a Bolshevik, he replied: "I am an artist. I am interested in life. Bolshevism is a new phase of life. I must be interested in it."

But the attack of the McCarthy era was intense. Mississippi Congressman John Rankin demanded that Chaplin be deported, claiming that his life is "detrimental to the moral fabric of America." "By deporting him," Rankin said, "he can be kept off the American screen and his loathsome pictures can *be kept from the eyes of American youth." Senator Harry Kain demanded* that Chaplin should be deported on the grounds that he "almost treasonably asked Picasso, a self-admitted French communist," to head a protest against the Rankin committee. Congressman Velde announced investigations of him. **Monsieur Verdoux** was banned in many places. Chaplin's unfortunate love life was distorted and used as a smear tactic against him.

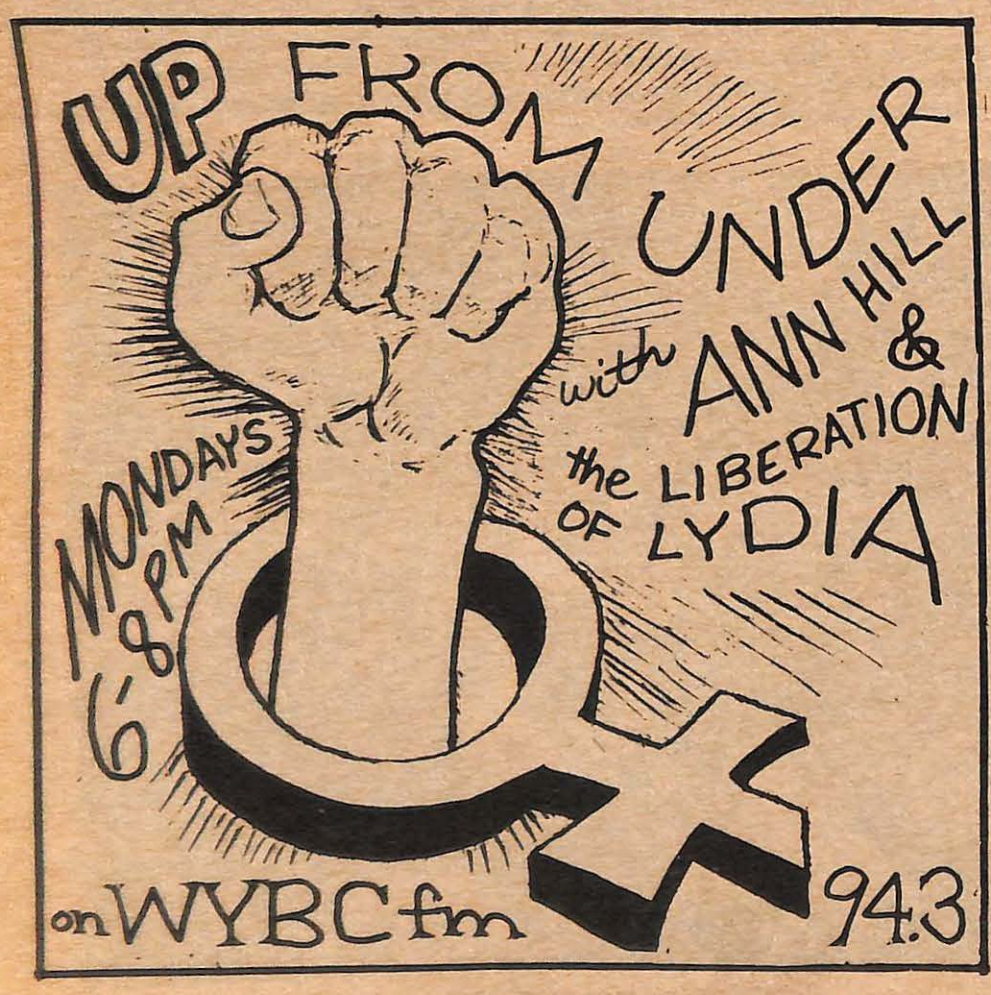
Exile's Return

Chaplin replied with dignity to the charges. " I am not a Communist, I am a peacemonger." "During the war I was sympathetic with the Russians who were holding the front. I believe we owe her thanks and in that sense I was sympathetic." He described his ideology as a defense of "the little man --his right to have a roof over his head and to work and raise a family."

Of what Hollywood had become, he said: "Hollywood is now fighting its last battle and it will lose that battle unless it decides once and for all, to give up standardizing its films--unless it realizes that masterpieces cannot be mass produced in the cinema, like tractors in a factory. I think, objectively that it is time to take a new road, so that money shall no longer be the all-powerful god of a decaying community." The road Chaplin took in 1952 was that of exile, exile because he had defended the right of peace, democracy, and socialism to survive.

In his 1957 film **A King in New York,** he satirized McCarthyism and now he and Oona O'Neill, his wife for thirty years, are back.

Welcome, Welcome home. Critic Peter Cotes put it well when he said: "...looking back over Chaplin's legend*ary career as actor, director, producer, musician and screen-writer,* and his creation of Charlie, the world's greatest comedian, the best known figure of our day, and an art which ranged from the pinnacles of high comedy to the ocean depths of human despair, I would call him The First Artist of modern times."



Where To Buy Modern Times

Hill: Beirne's, Howard-Columbus; Wil-Mor's, Congress-Hallock; Len-Mac Cleaners, Howard-Sylvan; Martinez Grocery, Washington-West.

Fair Haven: Wil-Mor's, Grand-James; Marie's, Grand-Lloyd; Fair Haven Parents Ministry, Grand-James, Sal's Sandwich Shop, 188 Grand; Lenny's Market, St. Johns-Chestnut; Pequot Drug, Grand-East Pearl.

Downtown: Red's Newstand, Elm-State; News Depot, Orange-George; Band Box, Chapel near College; Whitlock's, Broadway; Angela Davis Bookstore, Broadway.

Hamden: Cherry Hill Pharmacy, 1830 Dixwell; Soybel Pharmacy, Dixwell-Wooding.

West Haven: Silver's, Campbell-Main; Liggett's, Campbell-Center; Rivoli Luncheonette, Campbell-Center.

Newhallville: Davis-Waller, Goodrich-Newhall; Visel's Drugs, Dixwell-Bassett; Bob's Market, Dixwell-Division.

State-Orange: Standard Food Market, 852 State; Orange-Grove Pharmacy; Whitney Pharmacy, near Edwards; Orange Market., 500 Orange.

Dixwell: Davis-Waller, Dixwell Plaza; Lake Variety, Dixwell-Lake Place; Windsor Drugs, Winchester-Webster; HH Discount, 138 Goffe St.

Westville: Beaver Hill Pharmacy, Fitch-Blake; Westville Pharmacy, Fountain-Central; Coyne Stationery, Amity Center; Lurie's Pharmacy, Whalley-Dayton.

Dwight: Volpe's Pharmacy, Chapel-Beers; Group W, Dwight-Edgewood; Esquire Restaurant, Chapel-Orchard.

Mid-town: Book World, Chapel-York; Superbooks, Chapel-York; Downstairs Gallery, York near Chapel; C & I Grocery, Norton-George; Audio Showcase, Whalley-Winthrop; LaBella's Luncheonette, 433 Chapel; Our Food Store, Whalley-Winthrop; Gary's New York Deli, 1207 Chapel; Ray's Coffee Shop, York-Chapel; Omnibus, Park near Crown.

Rowing Course Hearing

Finish Line At Chapel St?

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

Last Thursday's aldermanic Rowing Course hearing was a heated skirmish. On one side was the International Rowing Course Foundation allied with the City Park Commission and the Department of Traffic and Parking. On the other side were the citizens who felt that the city was being offered a bad deal. As one Westville resident put it, "you can't get something for nothing".

In order to get $3 million dollars worth of athletic facilities for Lee High School, a 150 foot swimming pool and some playing fields the city residents were asked to make the following concessions:

1) Limited use of a public park. A good deal of the time the rowing course will be closed to public use.

2) Permanent closing of the Chapel Street bridge across the West River. In place of the bridge will be part of the 24,000 seat grandstand complex which will be filling the park.

3) Building of parking lots in public park land.

4) A contract in which there are no provisions for enforcement except by terminating the contract. Thus New Haven could legally be stuck with full responsibility for the maintainence of the park.

5) Commercialism in the park and extra traffic on the adjoining streets.

6) A board of directors which includes no New Haven residents. Juan Trippe, President of Pan Am and of the International Rowing Course Foundation rejected the demand of the Citizens Park Council that a citizens advisory group be funded to oversee feasibility planning, construction and maintainence of the facility.

Two and a Half Years

Gene Festa, chairman of the Citizens Park Council stated that in the two and one half years since the plan was first unveiled, the International Rowing Course Foundation has offered no major concessions to the public. Moreover, he said, the questions posed by the council concerning water quality, summer stagnation, threat of flooding, parking problem and citizen participation in planning and running the facility have not been answered satisfactorily. Indeed in the two and one half year period many questions have not even been studied.

Carl Nastri, head of the Park Commission assured the people at the hearing that state water quality standards would be met before the facility was approved and that water quality would be studied by state experts. However, he held out no hope that the overflows of sewage into the West River above the rowing course would be remedied in the near future because of the expense of separating domestic sewers and storm sewers.

After the rowing course proposal is reported out of aldermanic rowing course committee it must be acted on by the entire Board of Aldermen. However, it is not clear how much more attention the city plans to give the environmental impact of the facility before they press to get the contract signed.

Angela Davis Rebuts Evidence

Continued from Page 5.

ties," she explained, "my goal has been to aid in the creation of a movement encompassing millions of people, indeed the majority of the people in the United States today, a movement which will ultimately usher in a more humane, socialist society."

Much of her statement explained how a conspiracy charge can be used to indict an innocent person. She told of police spies gathering her speeches and public statements since the time of her efforts to keep her job as professor at UCLA. The Board of Regents would not permit this, as she is a member of the Communist Party.

Now, the prosecution is choosing not to use this evidence, emphasizing instead the events of the courtroom shootings of August 7, although Angela Davis is not charged with having been present. He presented different unrelated events in the life of Davis, like moving to a new apartment, in such a way to lead the jury to think, "are they connected?"

Angela Davis told the jury that she did own guns, "but the evidence will point to the fact that I never knowingly supplied them to anyone for purposes of violence."

She explained her possession of the guns in terms of her childhood in Birmingham, Alabama, where extremists killed four young black girls in a church bombing in 1963. She told how her father and other blacks had kept guns for self-defense against racist attacks. She further described the many threats against her life which she received as a known Communist in California.

Playing a Game

"It is a sick kind of game which the prosecutor is playing," Angela Davis told the jury "He has a crime, a scheme, a plan; how can he pull me into it so it still appears plausible? Since I committed no crimes, since all my activity was open and above board, the prosecutor is left with only one alternative; he must shape his circumstantial evidence out of the ordinary circumstances of everyday life." She said that inference is used to create "the missing link which will convert ordinary activity into criminal activity . . . and [Harris] makes no bones about asking you [the jury] to draw the inferences."

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WE NEED YOU NOW!!

Environmental Group At SCSC Posts Activities For Earth Week

by David Emerson
SCSC Environmental Awareness Council

Southern Connecticut State College Plans Earth Week Activities

The Environmental Studies Center at Southern Connecticut State College has arranged three environmental workshops for Earth Week.

1)Monday- April 17th
Professor Collin Tait will discuss Environmental Law and Legal Ways of Changing the Environmental Status Quo.

2)Wednesday--April 19th
Professor J. Denmore will speak on Noise Pollution and Acoustical Engineering. A demonstration of sound testing equipment is planned.

3)Friday--April 21st
Dan Lufkin will speak about the State Department of Environmental Protection.

All workshops begin at 2:00 PM in room 206 of the College Union.

4)The Environmental Awareness Council is conducting a natural history hike to be led by Dr. Stephan Collins. Participants are asked to assemble at Morril Hall at 12:00 noon, Sunday April 16th.

5)On Sunday, April 23rd, the EAC plans a bicycle picnic to Sleeping Giant State Park. The trip will begin from in front of Morril Hall at 10:30 AM.

6)On Earth Day, April 22nd, a pollution tour of New Haven is scheduled. Participants will meet in front of Morril Hall at 10:30 AM. For more information call David Emerson at 248-1245.

PERISCOPE
On The Environment

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

WITHIN AND WITHOUT— Many people are familar with the Simkins Industries air and water pollution on the Mill River, but it may be worse inside. The company just had the honor of receiving 85 federal citations for unsafe conditions inside the plant. We hope that management is forced to be quicker about dealing with these citations than they are with their outside pollution!

HIGHWAY TRUST BUSTING BILL— The Connecticut Highway Coalition believes that the Mettler bill to abolish the state highway fund may pass the state House of Representatives since it was favorably reported out of committee. It is a good time to call up the state senators and representatives in your district to ask them to vote against the highway trust and for the environment.

EARTH PLATFORM— *A Connecticut Citizens Action sponsored group of* state high school students recently issued an Earth Platform "to preserve our environment—for those who will inherit the earth." It states in its preamble that urban people are entitled to the same quality of environment as rural people and suburban people. It has well thought-out statements on air pollution, water pollution, solid waste disposal, urban environment—including housing, health and education—transportation, energy resources, pesticides, food additives, birth control and abortion, land use, occupational health and wildlife. The complete text is available at the local CCAG office. Call 787-7186.

THIRD ANNUAL BICYCLE POLLUTION TOUR— April 22, 10:30 am, Morril Hall, Southern Connecticut State College. Sponsored by Southern's Environmental Awareness Council.

BIKE FESTIVAL AND PARK CLEAN UP—Saturday, April 29 from 10 am to 3 pm. Burlap bags provided at Coogan Pavilion, the ice-skating rink in Edgewood Park; Everyone invited. Sponsored by American Youth Hostels.

HORSEFEATHERS—If you're ever in San Bernadino, California and see a wagon drawn by four strawberry roan horses, don't panic. It's only Dr. Loutzenhiser doing his bit for ecology. Doc, a psychologist and a marriage counselor, has started Doc's Livery and Drayage Company which gathers recyclable trash.

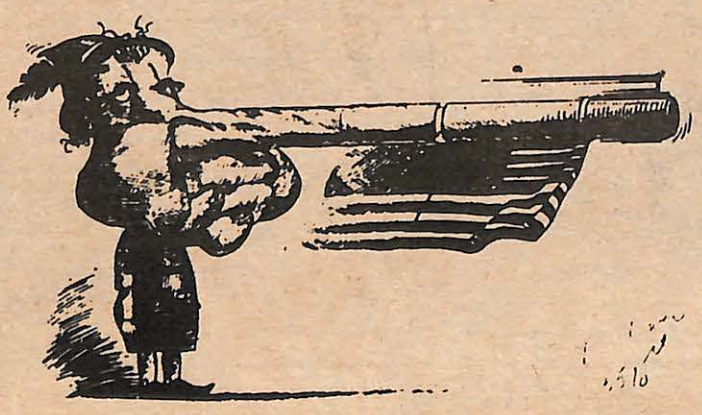
"Seven" Conspiracy Trial Ends In Jury Deadlock

Continued from Page 4.

which Douglas then lent to the defendants.

At the end of the first week of jury deliberation the judge urged the jury to continue even through they were deadlocked because he argued it would be impossible to get a better jury for a new trial.

It would appear from the Harrisburg trial that the government will go to great lengths, even using paid informers, in the effort to trap and punish the leaders of the antiwar movement. The Harrisburg Seven, a group of former nuns, priests, and one Moslem scholar, have had to sweat out indictments with prison sentences from five to 50 years for fantasizing about ways to arouse the nation about the evils of the Indochina War.



On The Job Railroad Job A Bumpy Ride

At Pennsy there are no comfortable facilities for those who have to stay over away from home or to relax in during the day. (MT photo by Dave Vine)

by a PennCentral Employee

I work in the Penn Central Railroad yards. The main work that's done there is taking the freight trains that come in and sorting out the cars to make up other trains to go out. I've worked there over twenty years.

Compared to the jobs I've had, like in shops, it's beautiful; for itself I call it inoffensive. It doesn't get boring as soon as jobs in the shop do. There are days when I'd rather be indoors, but there are a lot more days when I'm glad to be out.

I want to talk about railroad workers *in general. There are hundreds of people working at the yards. There's a great variety of conditions. Some work in offices, some in shops,* some of us outdoors. A few of the offices and I guess a few of the shops, and even a few of the locomotives are fairly new and fairly clean but for most of us, the places we work and the equipment we work with are old and dirty and falling apart and a lot of it is unsafe. We know it's unsafe so we take special precautions. It's especially hazardous for a new man on the job.

Computers Get Best Treatment

The offices that are being built now are better because a lot of the work that used to be done by people is now being done by computers and computers don't work so well in extreme heat-so the people that work in the office get the benefit of the air conditioning that's put in to keep the IBM cards from curling up and sticking together.

The shops are practically all dirty and greasy. The diesel shop here in New Haven is a real disgrace, there is no way of letting the diesel fumes out. I'd have to need a job real bad before I'd work there.

Those of us who work outdoors develop a unique sensitivity to things like weather because we work outside in all kinds of weather. In over 20 years I can recall only three times when they shut things down because of weather - either a hurricane or the snow was so deep they had to plow us out.

Railroad Work

A yard switcher crew consists of an engineer, a conductor, (who's responsible for knowing where the cars are and where they're supposed to go) and then two brakemen. The last three work on the ground.

One thing about railroad work that's different from a lot of industries is that the people doing the work are spread out so much that they just can't have the boss looking over your shoulder all the time. So a good part of the time you're on your own. Another peculiar thing is that you can't cut the work into one minute or five minute pieces. The smallest assignment they can give a switch crew is 20 minutes, so you can drag it out or speed it up if it's near the end of the day.

One thing that hits me in the face every day is that the people who designed the equipment never worked on it and don't consult the people who do work on it. The diesel engineer has to sit anywhere from 7½ to 14 hours and he doesn't get many breaks, so if they have an uncomfortable seat for him....They have engines designed for high speed road service that aren't good enough anymore so they use them in the yard - but they're completely inappropriate for use in the yard.

They Could but They Don't

Another thing, management could provide comfortable accomodations for men who have to stay over away from home, or could make the equipment safe to work on and engines and cabooses that were comfortable to ride in, for a very small amount of money. They could make the job a lot pleasanter but they don't.

At the last count there were 23 unions in the Penn Central system. They were originally set up along craft lines, but some of the locals did a bad job and were raided by rival unions. One result of having so many different unions is that you never have a very big local. Even in a center where there are hundreds of people working in one craft they may be broken up into several locals and you never get many people to a union meeting.

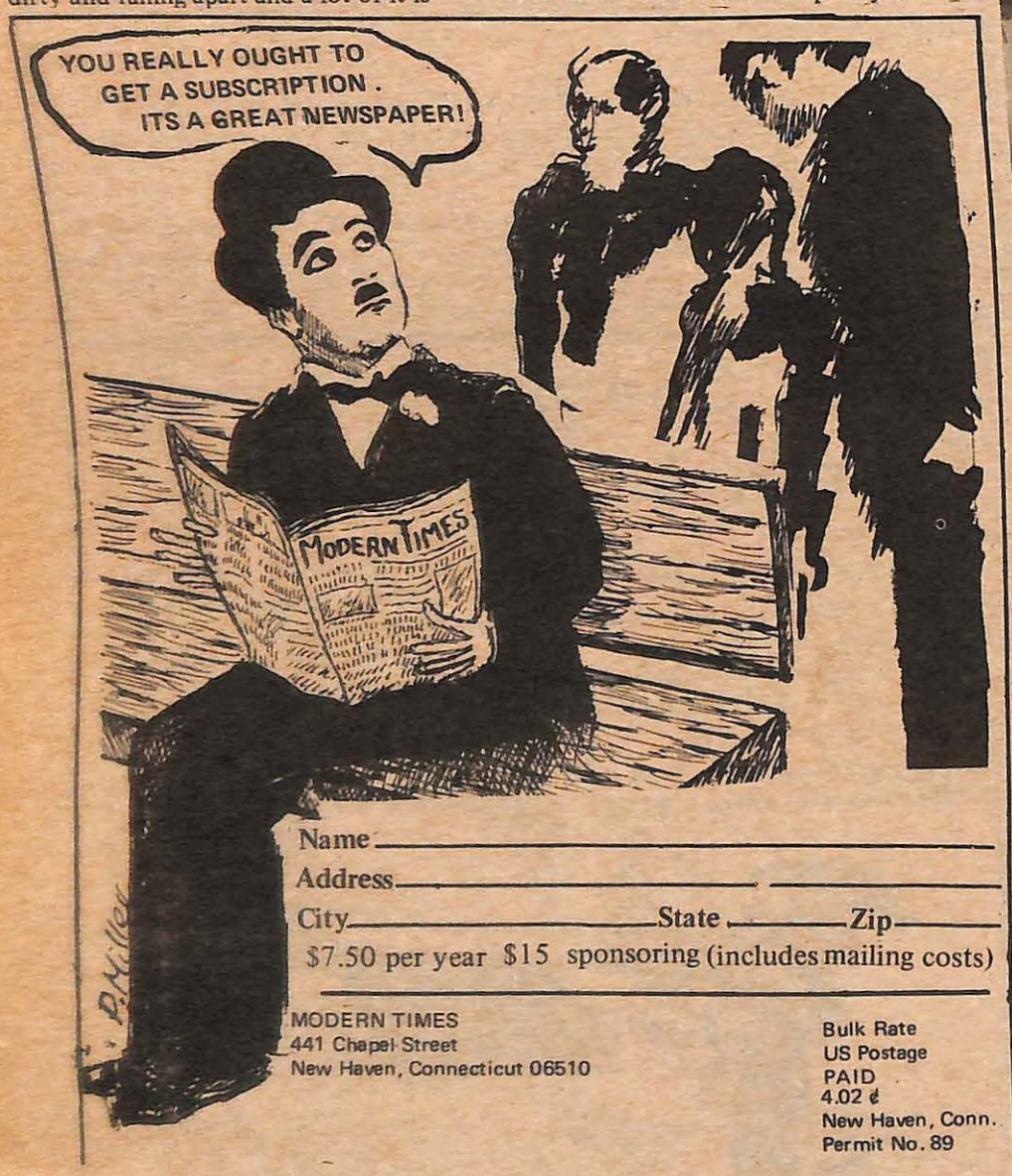
Penn Central Merger

In recent years there have been some mergers - about the same time two big and one small railroad merged into the Penn Central system, four craft unions, representing the yard, train, and engine unions, merged into the United Transportation Union (UTU).

Ever since the Penn Central took over this part of the railroad the union has been on the defensive, trying to keep management from cutting out too many jobs and to get raises that are in line with the increase in the cost of living. If the management can succeed in cutting the crews down, they may lay off most of the people they've hired in the last few years.

In some ways we had a picnic when we were working for the New Haven Railroad. Management was pretty easy-going and they didn't check up on you. I think a reason for that was that for years before the Penn Central acquired the New Haven Railroad, it had been managed by people who were deliberately sinking it so the Pennsy could buy it without really paying for it.

A Penn Central brakeman, part of the switcher crew, is uncoupling two cars. (MT photo by Dave Vine)



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Joan Stone—"Clear Me a Space and I'll Dance About Rosa Luxembourg"

The University of New Haven Library Fund-raising Committee presents an evening of solo dances, choreographed and performed by Joan Stone. This consists of an epic dance in five parts dealing with the life of Rosa Luxembourg.

The performance will be held on Thursday, April 20, from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm in the Student Center Lounge on the University campus. The price of admission will be $1.00 at the door.

Watch For Special Issue Of MODERN TIMES Coming May 1